

About Hugs Catalogue

Hugs Catalogue is a one-movement piece for eleven players whose aim is the expression of the opposition between the physicality of a hug and its different possible interpretations regarding the reached feeling. The physical component of human interaction has acquired certain conventions when it comes to perception and comprehension of its meaning, doing away with the plurality and diversity of possible interpretations and emotional reactions. Moreover, its practice has been influenced by the tendency towards individualism and own's interest imposed by the current sociopolitical leading environment. This work explores the different sensitive responses to such an apparent act of tenderness, warmth and consolation.

The piece is also written *in memoriam* Galina Ustvolskaya, one of the most outstanding yet forgotten paragons of the Russian music from the second half of the past century. Ustvolskaya mainly focused on the development of her individual and unique spiritual insight, materialized in this piece through the use of the wooden box (a log drum), which separates the sections of the piece in a ritualistic manner, bringing about a heavy and intense tension and atmosphere, governed by silence and sobriety, and maintained by the behavior of the performers.